

HB 6616: “An Act Concerning Expansion of Husky Health Benefits to Those Ineligible Due to Immigration Status”

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Donna Grossman, and I am a resident of Windsor.

I stand in support of HB 6616: An Act Concerning Expansion of Husky Health Benefits to Those Ineligible Due to Immigration Status. Expanding access to HUSKY regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 26; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age. If Connecticut wants a future that includes healthy families and a stable, thriving and growing workforce that is ready to meet the needs of our future, Connecticut must ensure that these individuals have access to health coverage.

Three of my four grandparents immigrated to the United States in the nineteen-teens. As a child (I was born in 1954) in a lower-middle class family, healthcare costs were never an issue. No insurance, no problem. And luckily for me, when I grew up and graduated college, I started to work for UTC - free insurance. Of course, as time went by, I paid more and more for that insurance. Even as an engineer, by the late 90's, the amount I was paying was not trivial. And that was coupled with a very large deductible and max-out-of pocket amount. I am now retired and on Medicare, and in 2022, I paid \$12,000 in health care expenses. That is WITH Medicare.

Someone should not have to be lucky enough to have ancestors that came to this country before there was such a thing as “legal” immigration in order to be able to afford to receive healthcare. I support HB 6616 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,
Donna Grossman